



Security Council

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Letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 17 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dirk Jan van den Berg
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement issued on 17 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and expresses its concern about the continuing stalemate. Both Ethiopia and Eritrea need peace and stability to focus on the serious challenges facing their countries, and the EU urges both countries to take a more constructive stand.

The EU recognizes that in the current situation, the continued presence of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is essential for stability in the region, and welcomes United Nations resolution 1560 (2004), extending the UNMEE mandate for a further six months. The EU fully supports the proposed rationalization of the mission and has full confidence that the Secretary-General of the United Nations will ensure that UNMEE will maintain its current level of effectiveness.

The EU calls upon both countries to use the coming six months to implement measures which may help to break the current deadlock and allow demarcation to proceed expeditiously. The EU urges Ethiopia to abide by the Boundary Commission's decision as agreed in the Algiers Peace Agreement and to fully cooperate with the Boundary Commission in the implementation of the decision.

The EU reiterates its full support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative Legwaila and his Special Envoy Axworthy, and calls on Eritrea to engage with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy in a constructive manner.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,^a the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

^a Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.